

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 March 2005 (10.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/021800 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12Q 1/68

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/026857

(22) International Filing Date: 17 August 2004 (17.08.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/497,222 22 August 2003 (22.08.2003) US
60/543,784 11 February 2004 (11.02.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DETECTION AND QUANTITATION OF NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES IN BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

(57) Abstract: The present invention concerns processes for the detection and quantitation of nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides in a sample using hybridization-detection assays, antibody-mediated recognition assays, nucleic acid sensor molecules, chromatographic assays, and/or electrophoresis assays. The present invention specifically concerns processes for the detection and quantitation of double stranded nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides in a sample using hybridization-detection assays. The nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides can include molecules that mediate RNA interference, such as short interfering nucleic acid (siNA), short interfering RNA (siRNA), double-stranded RNA (dsRNA), micro-RNA (miRNA), and short hairpin RNA (shRNA) molecules. The nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides can include nucleic acid aptamers, enzymatic nucleic acid molecules, decoys, antisense, 2',5'-oligoadenylate molecules, triplex forming oligonucleotides or any other nucleic acid molecule of interest. The present invention also concerns kits that allow for the detection and quantitation of nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides in a sample.

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